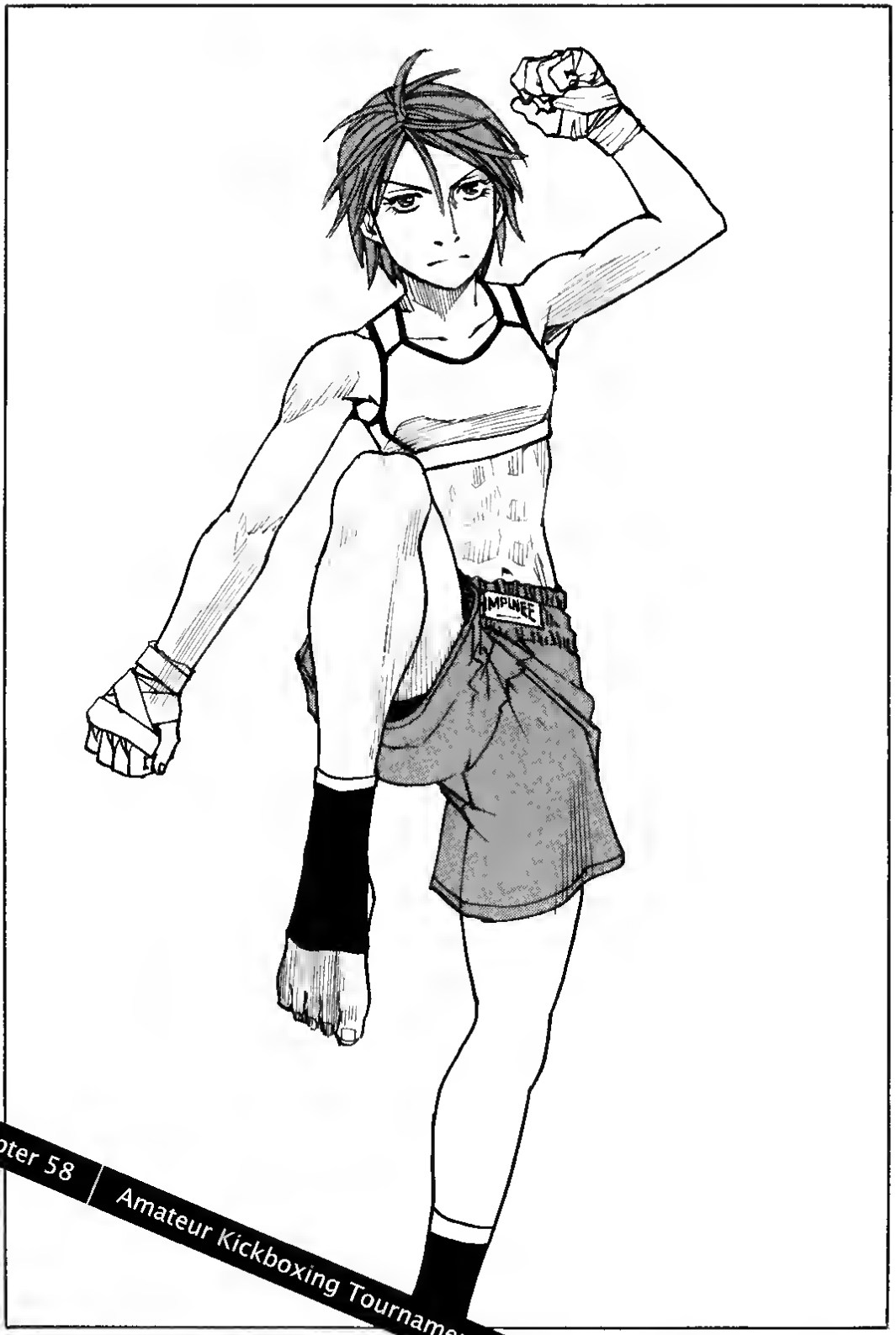
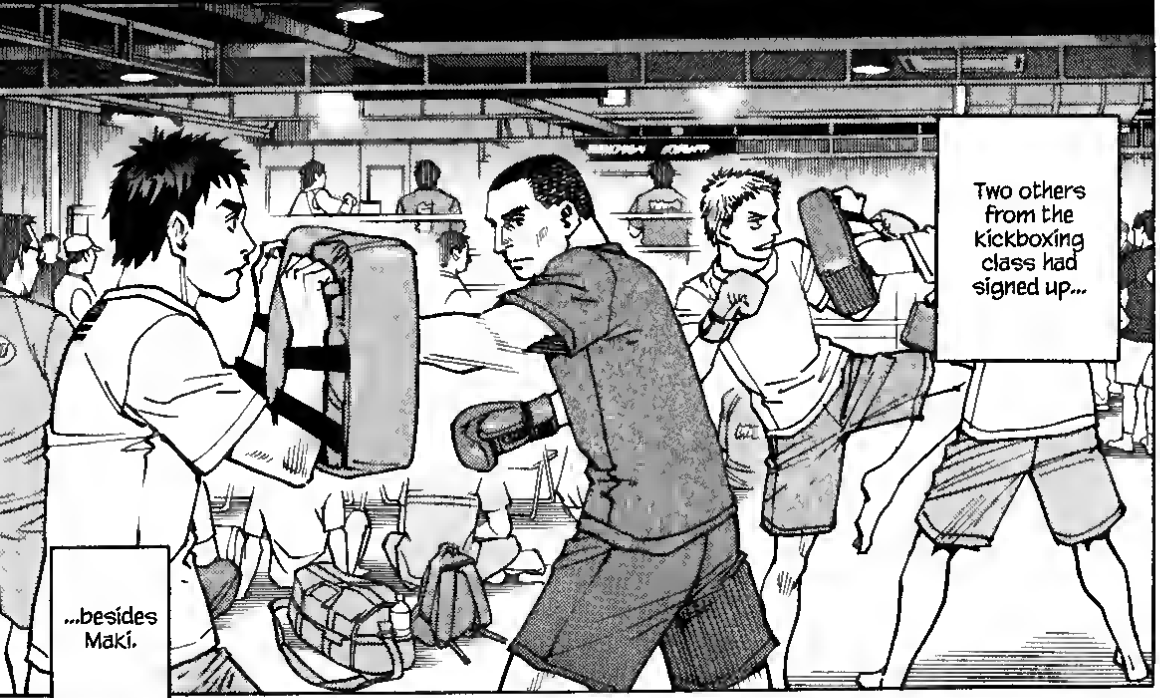
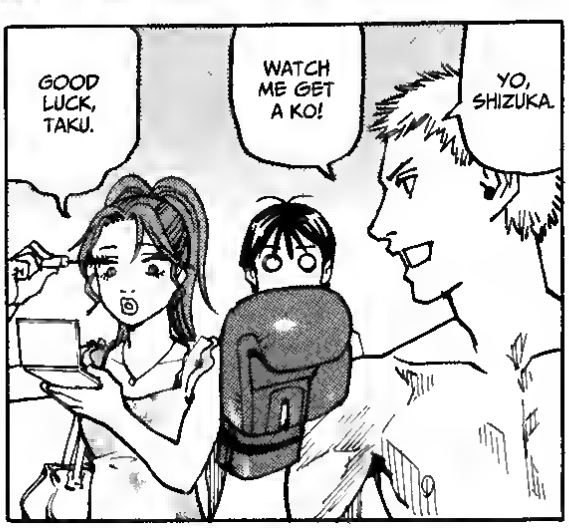


Chapter 58 | Amateur Kickboxing Tournament

And it was summer vacation.
Finally the horrible exam season was over.
Thank you, Mitch!
You're a life-saver!
Now I don't have to quit the gym!
First up...
GOLD'S GYM
...there was an amateur one-match kickboxing tournament...
...that Maki was partici-pating in.
WINDY

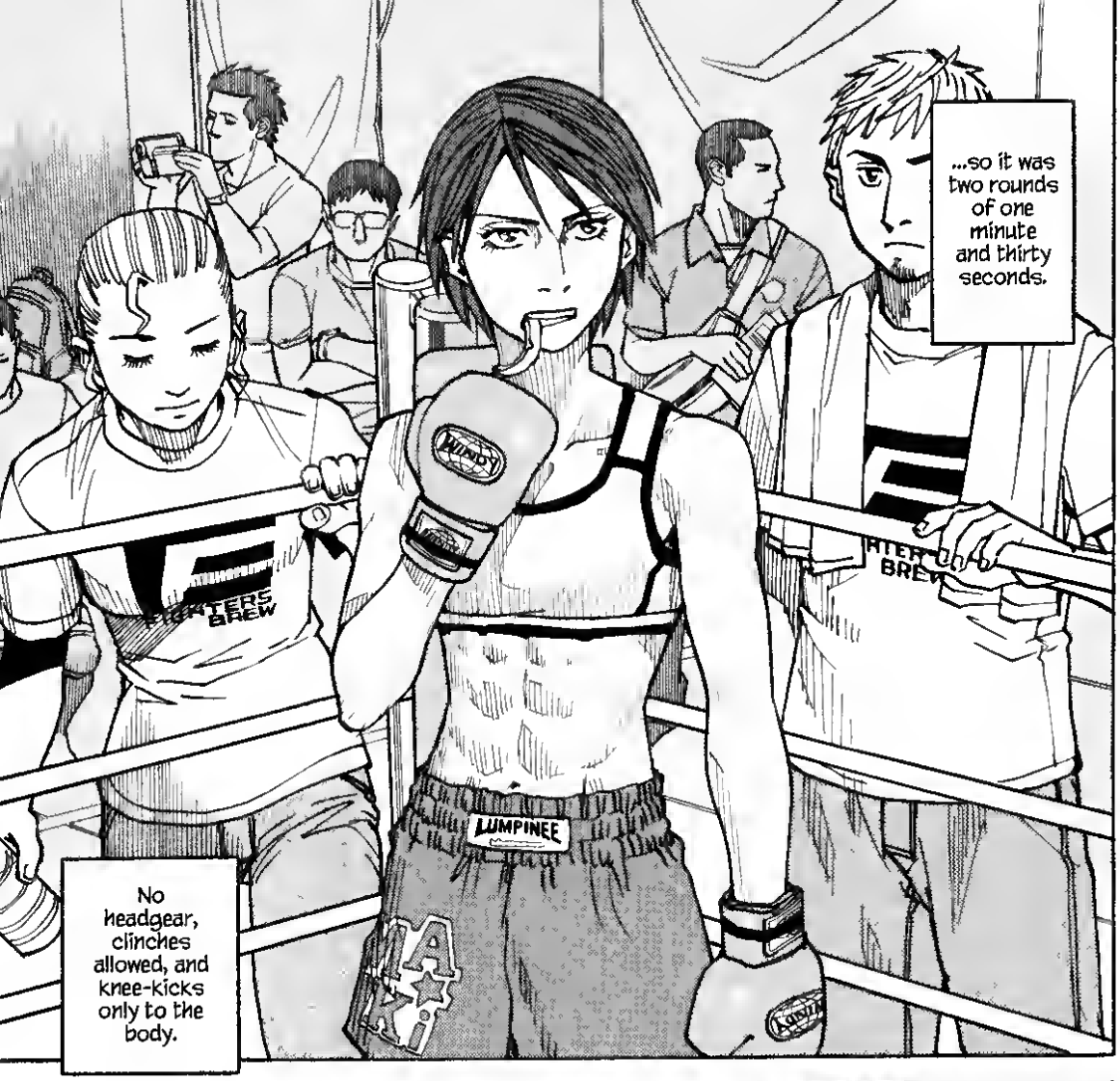

Two others from the kickboxing class had signed up...
...besides Maki.

...
COME AT ME, BRO!
This was Takagi's first bout.
WHO D'YOU THINK YOU ARE, EH?!
Clearly it had never even occurred to him that he might lose.

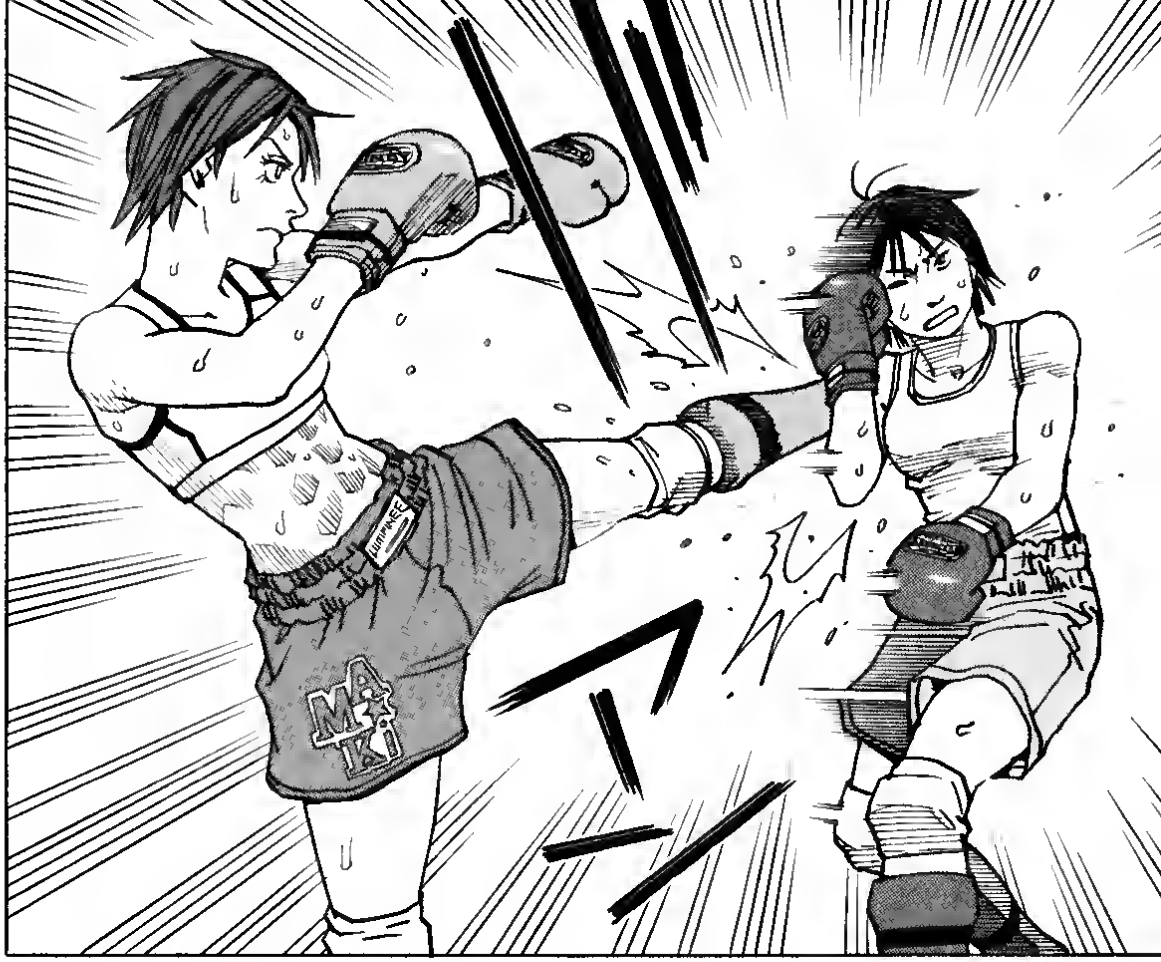

GOOD LUCK, TAKU.
WATCH ME GET A KO!
YO, SHIZUKA.

Waha ha ha ha
Match 12, bantam-weight division.
In the red corner with Fighters Brew, Takuya Takagi!
HTER BREW

...he got countered with a right hook...
...and was KO'd.
Takagi came out strong...
...but once he was in the fray...
FORGET ABOUT THAT MORON.
YOU'RE AMAZING, TAKU.
JUST WATCH MY REVENGE STORY, YO!
I'M GONNA KICK ASS NEXT TIME, YO!
I'M UP NEXT.
beep boop beep
FIGHTERS BREW
The rules for the amateur kickboxing tournament were different depending on the level of the contestants.
Maki was in the top amateur class...

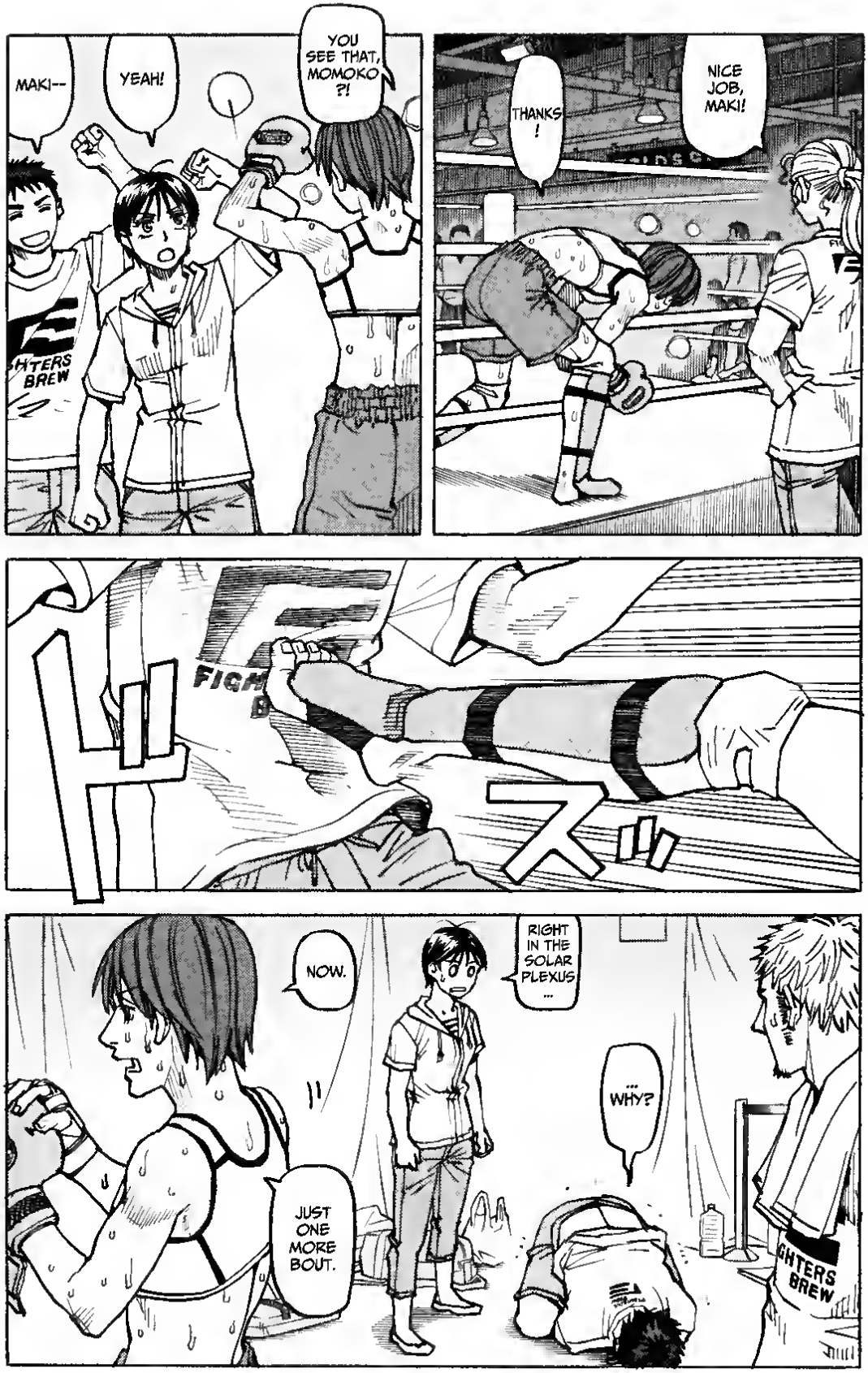

...so it was two rounds of one minute and thirty seconds.
No headgear, clinches allowed, and knee-kicks only to the body.
LUMPINEE

FIGHT!



Maki kept up a flurry of left middle kicks when her opponent backed down...
...and kneed her when she came in close.
THAT'S IT! WELL DONE!
DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN!

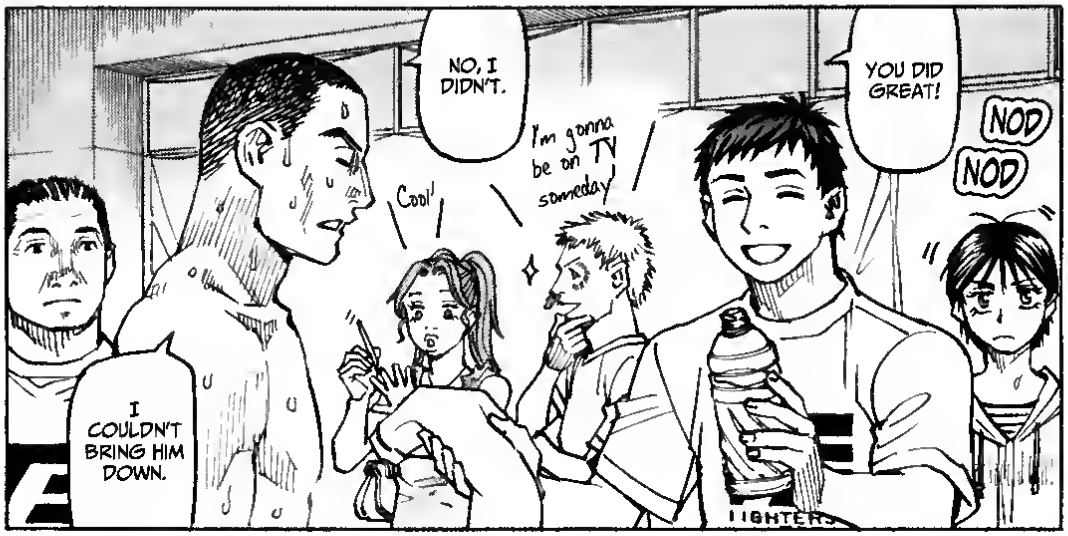
ドス
In the second round she used the clinch...
...to drop her opponent repeat-edly...
カーン
...and ultimately won by KO.

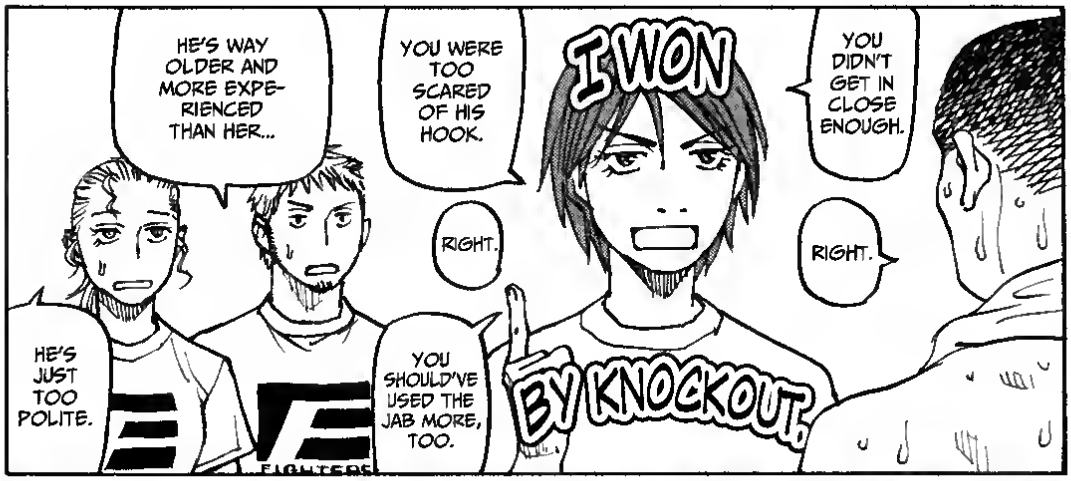

MAKI--
YEAH!
YOU SEE THAT, MOMOKO ?!
NICE JOB, MAKI!
THANKS !
FIGHTERS BREW
RIGHT IN THE SOLAR PLEXUS ...
... WHY?
NOW.
JUST ONE MORE BOUT.
FIGHTERS BREW

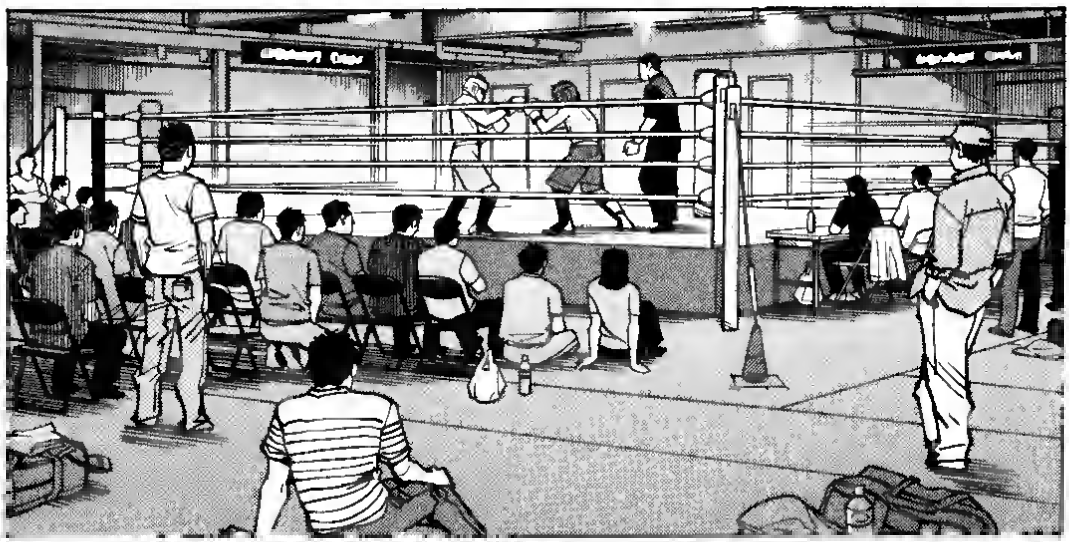
MEGURU, I NEED A BANDAGE!
OK!
Because there were only three entrants in the women's feather-weight division...
...Maki was going to be fighting two bouts in one day.
Also up was welterweight Keiji Mochizuki, age 35.
He started off in karate, but had nine years as an amateur kickboxer.

He's a government worker, so he won't be going pro.
OH, SURE!
PLEASE SPAR WITH ME.
He always spoke politely to me at the gym...
...even though I'm only in high school.
OK.
ALL RIGHT, I'M UP NEXT.
He still seems more like a karate-ka ...
...than a kick-boxer.
YOUR KIDS AREN'T COMING TO WATCH?
But aside from his days off...
...he trains like two hours a day.
THEY USED TO IN THE BEGINNING, BUT NOT ANYMORE...

He landed a straight right...
...but couldn't drop the other guy.
Mochizuki got in close with a leg kick...
...and cornered his opponent.
The winner is Mochi-zuki!
3-0, blue!
He won by deci-sion.

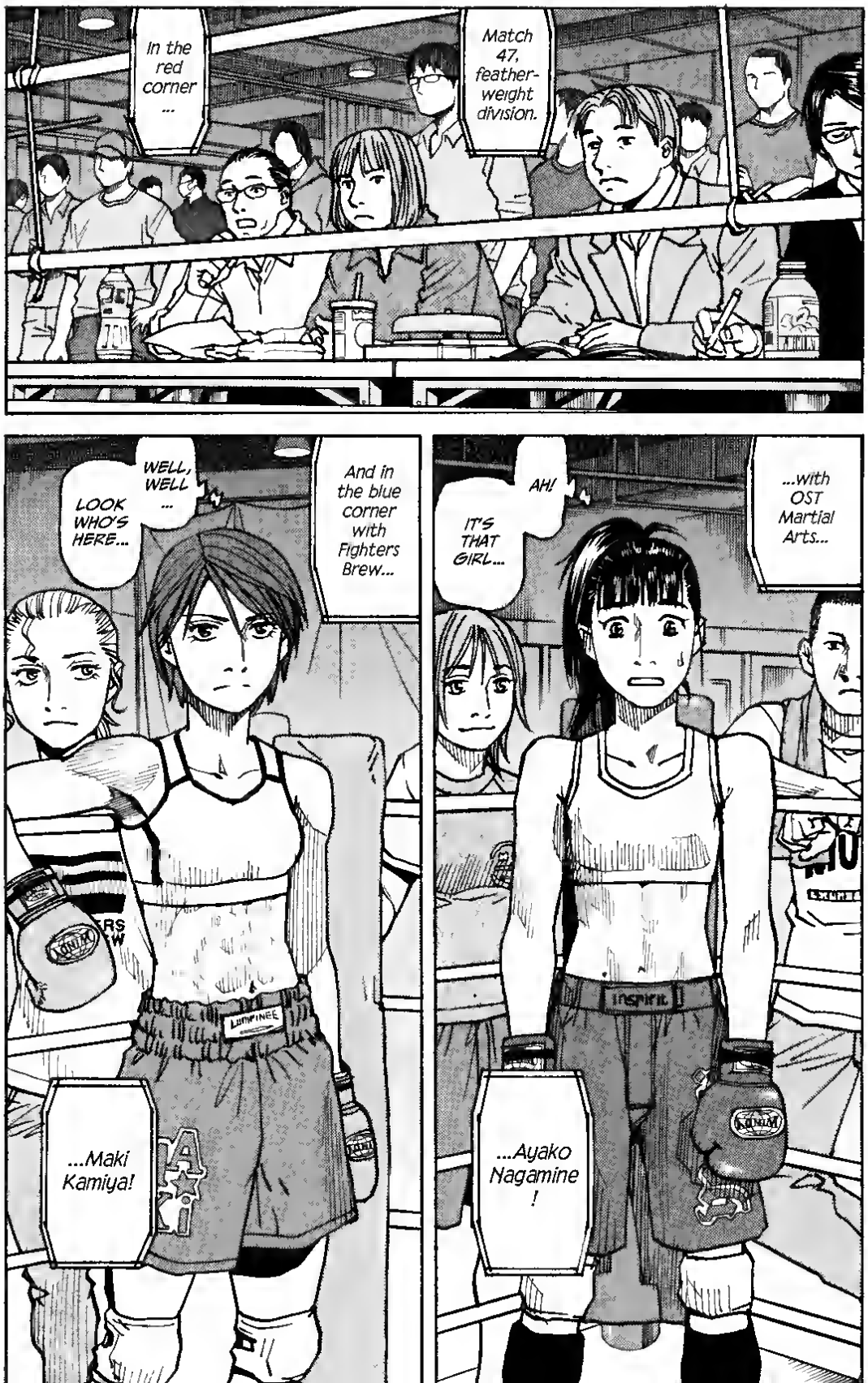

I COULDN'T BRING HIM DOWN.
NO, I DIDN'T.
YOU DID GREAT!
NOD
NOD
Cool!
I'm gonna be on TV someday!


HE'S WAY OLDER AND MORE EXPERIENCED THAN HER...
YOU WERE TOO SCARED OF HIS HOOK.
I WON
YOU DIDN'T GET IN CLOSE ENOUGH.
RIGHT.
RIGHT.
HE'S JUST TOO POLITE.
YOU SHOULD'VE USED THE JAB MORE, TOO.
BY KNOCKOUT.



*THIS IS A CLASSIC SONG CALLED "ORE WA GIANT-SAMA DA!" (I AM GIANT!) FROM THE ANIME *DORAEMON*.

...
SWOOSH!
EXCUSE MEEEEE!
AYA! YOU'D BETTER NOT FREEZE UP.
LET'S GET YOU READY.
HEY, AYAKO!
FEELING CALMER ?


In the red corner ...
Match 47, feather-weight division.
WELL, WELL ...
LOOK WHO'S HERE...
And in the blue corner with Fighters Brew...
...Maki Kamiya!
AH!
IT'S THAT GIRL...
...with OST Martial Arts...
...Ayako Nagamine !

SHE DOESN'T HOLD HERSELF LIKE A KICK-BOXER...
MUST'VE BUILT HER SKILLS IN OTHER SPORTS.
170 CM, EH...?
LOOKS LIKE SHE'S COME A LONG WAY.
NOTHING ABOUT HER RECORD IN HERE, THOUGH...
SHE'S FROM THE KANSAI RE-GION?
FIGHTERS BREE
OK.
JUST SEE HOW THINGS GO IN ROUND ONE.
YOU CAN'T HELP NEEDING THAT WARM-UP TIME.
HINDY
FIGHT!
カン

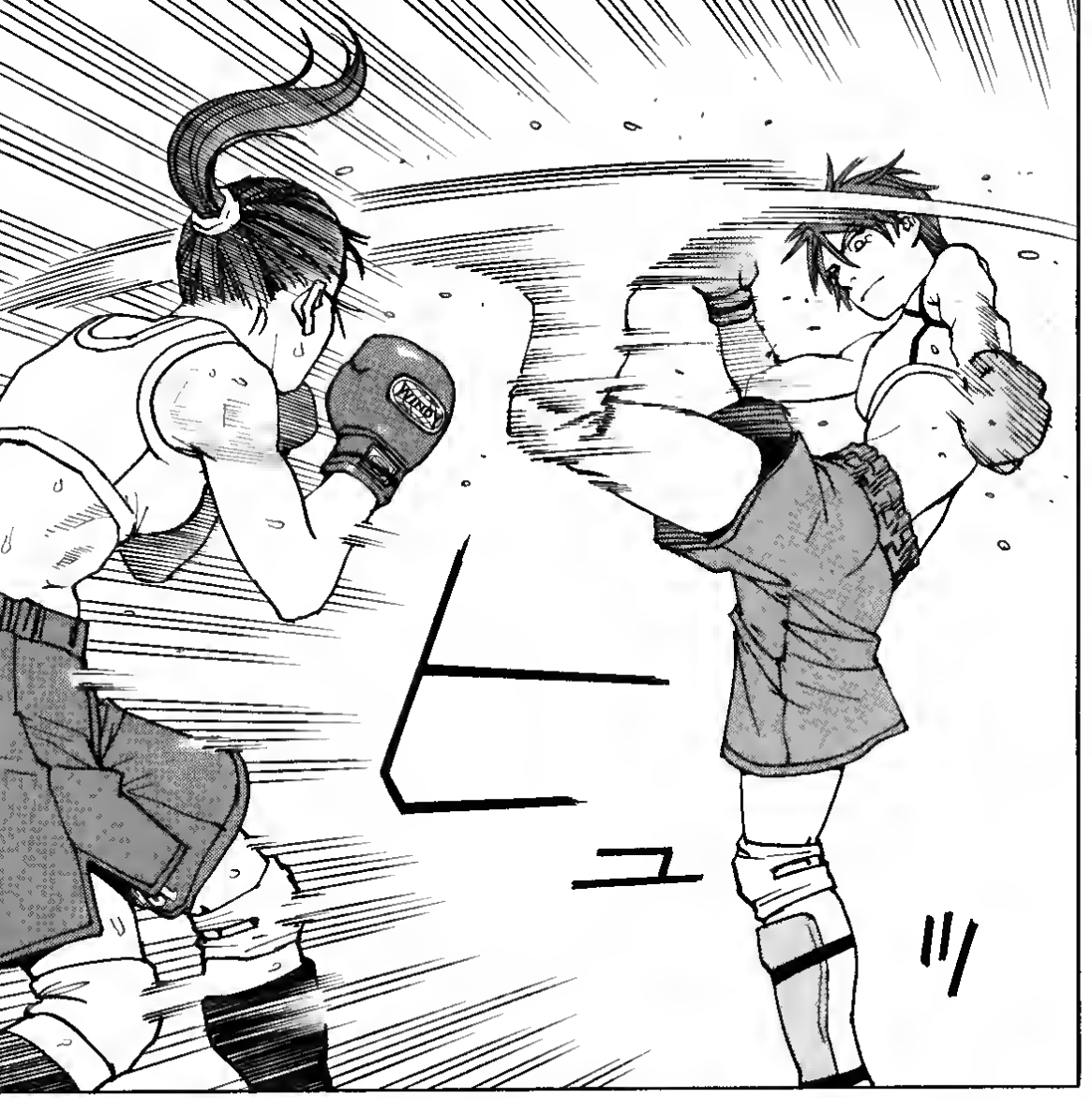
SHE'S ALL STIFF...
HER SHOULDERS ARE TOO TENSE...
TENSE
TENSE
...IS TO ATTACK HER FRONT LEG!
THE USUAL THING TO DO IN THIS CASE...
SHE'S IN A CROUCHING POSE...
IS SHE USED TO PUNCHING?

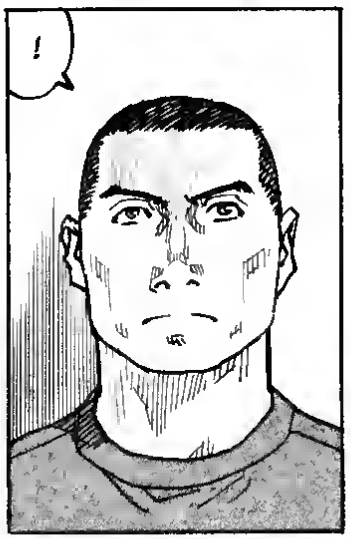
WHOA!
HOPE!

NEXT...

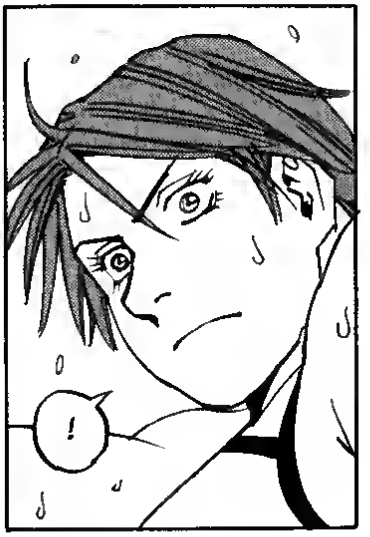
SHE'S PLACING TOO MUCH WEIGHT ON HER FRONT LEG.
SHE DIDN'T BLOCK THAT LEG KICK...
FIGHTERS BREW

...
SHE LANDED AN INSIDE LEG KICK FROM THAT DISTANCE?!




!

THERE YA GO...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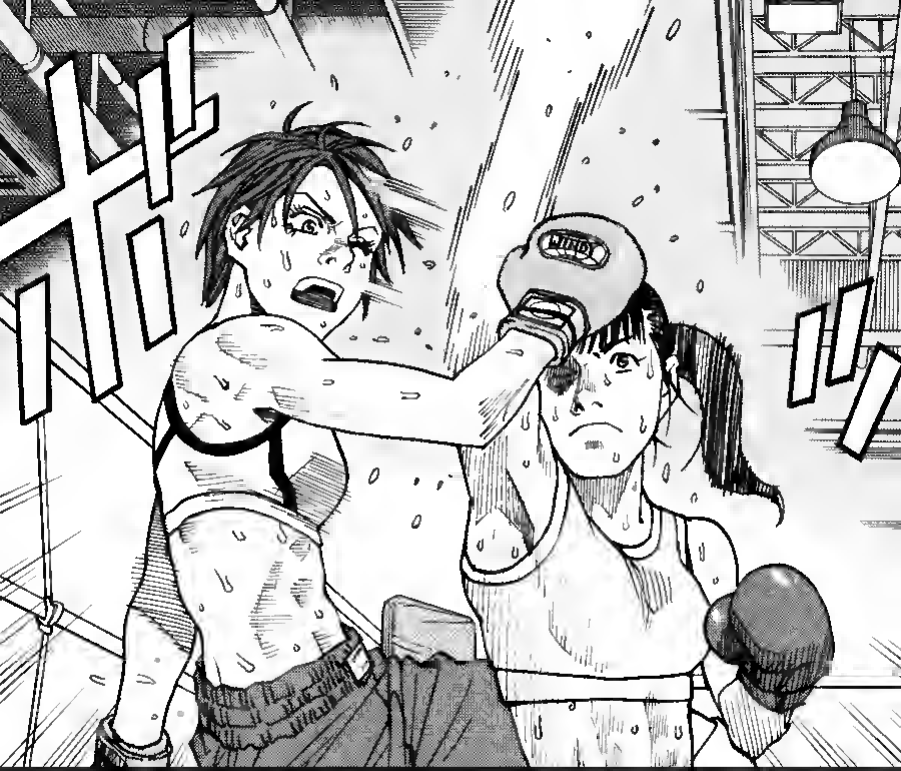
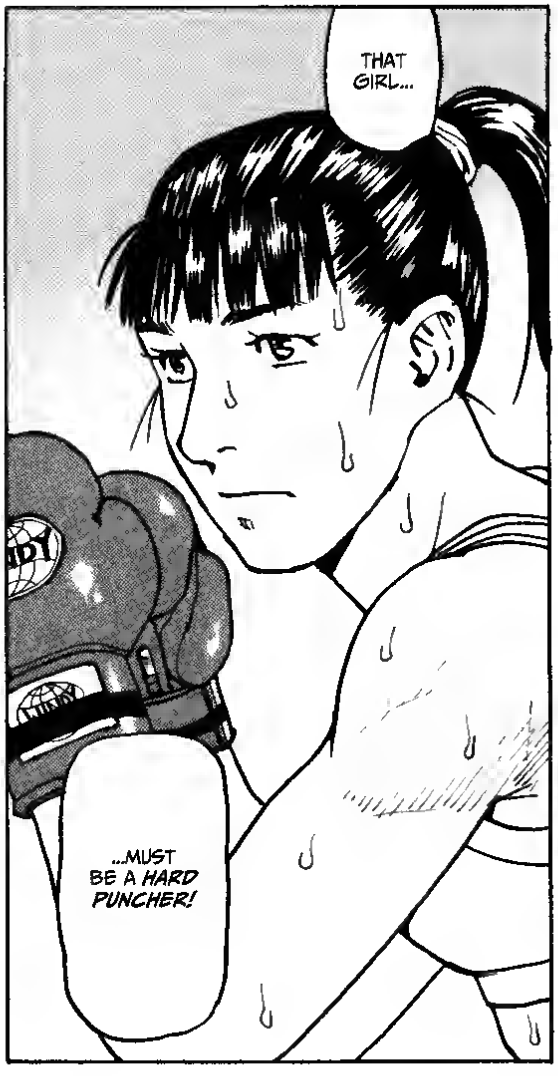


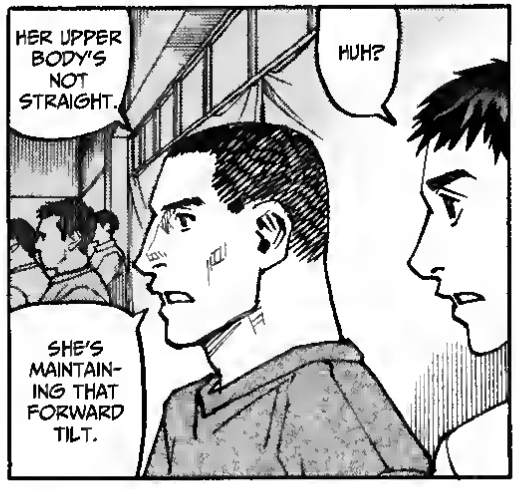
Read the next chapter of

ALL-ROUNDER MEGURU

@ kotonoha.monkey-pirate.com

THAT HIGH KICK...
THAT WAS GOOD, MAK!!
THE FACT THAT SHE BACKSTEPPED INSTEAD OF SWAYING IS A BAD SIGN.


THAT GIRL...
...MUST BE A *HARD PUNCHER!*


HUH?
HER UPPER BODY'S NOT STRAIGHT.
SHE'S MAINTAINING THAT FORWARD TILT.

AND SHE PROBABLY ...
...ANTICIPATED THE LEG KICK.
0:20